

**ABSOLUTE RATING:** Average  
**IMPROVEMENT RATING:** Good

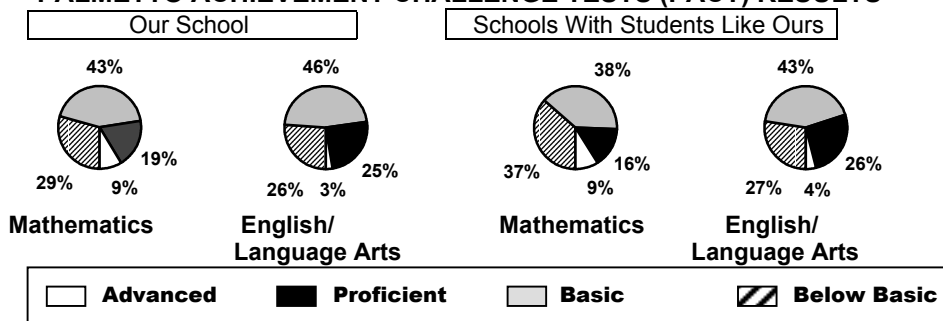
Number of middle schools with students similar to ours: 52. The absolute ratings for those schools ranged from below average to good. For the improvement ratings, the range was from unsatisfactory to average.

#### RATINGS OVER A 4-YEAR PERIOD



(Definitions of School Rating Terms on Page 4)

#### PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS



#### DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL TERMS:

- Advanced** – Student performance exceeded expectations.
- Proficient** – Student performance met expectations.
- Basic** – Student performance met minimum performance expectations.
- Below Basic** – Student performance did not meet minimum performance expectations.

Science scores are to be reported on 2004 School Report Cards. Social studies scores are to be reported on 2005 School Report Cards.

#### PERCENT OF STUDENTS SCORING BASIC OR ABOVE ON THE PACT

Student Group	English/ Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies
<b>All students (n=643)</b>	73.9%	70.6%	N/A	N/A
Students with disabilities other than Speech (n=80)	32.5%	30%		
Students without disabilities (n=562)	79.9%	76.5%		
<b>Gender</b>				
Male (n=355)	70.1%	71.5%		
Female (n=287)	78.7%	69.7%		
<b>Ethnic Group</b>				
African American (n=213)	52.6%	46.9%		
Hispanic (n=6)	N/A	N/A		
White (n=419)	84.7%	82.8%		
Other (n=4)	N/A	N/A		
<b>Lunch Status Group</b>				
Free/reduced-price Lunch (n=237)	59.1%	56.1%		
Pay for lunch (n=405)	82.7%	79.3%		

## SCHOOL PROFILE

### INDICATORS OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median Middle School
<b>SCHOOL</b>				
• Dollars spent per student	\$5,462	N/A	\$5,122	\$5,127
• Prime instructional time	90%	Up from 88.7%	90%	89.6%
• Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	20 to 1	N/A	21.7 to 1	21.4 to 1
<b>STUDENTS (n=732)</b>				
• Attendance rate	95.7%	Up from 95.3%	95.7%	95.7%
• Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	0%	N/A	3.2%	4.5%
• Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (math) off grade level	0%	N/A	3.3%	4.0%
• Retention rate	5.5%	Up from 1.7%	3.5%	4.5%
<b>TEACHERS (n=57)</b>				
• Professional Development days per teacher	8.4 Days	Up from 8.3	7.7 Days	8.0 Days
• Attendance Rate	95.6%	Up from 95.1%	95.5%	95.2%
• Teachers with advanced degrees	50.9%	Down from 51%	48%	45.8%
• Continuing contract teachers	80.7%	Down from 84.3%	82.4%	80.8%
• Teachers with out-of-field permits	7%	Up from 0%	1.9%	2.4%
• Teachers returning from the previous school year	80.3%	Up from 76%	86.9%	83.7%
• Average teacher salary	\$37,874	Up 3.7%	\$37,915	\$37,455

#### SCHOOL FACTS

	Our School	Change From Last Year	Schools with Students like ours	Median Middle School
<b>SCHOOL</b>				
• Dropout rate	0.4%	N/A	0%	0.0%
• Percentage of expenditures spent on teacher salaries	58.3%	N/A	61.1%	61.5%
• Principal's years at the school	6	N/A	3	3.0
• Parents attending conferences	96.2%	N/A	82.3%	78.2%
• Opportunities in the arts	Good	N/A	Good	Good
<b>STUDENTS</b>				
• On academic plans	48.3%	Up from 39.7%	38.7%	45.8%
• On academic probation	0.3%	N/A	0%	0.0%
• Older than usual for grade	4.2%	Down from 4.5%	3.8%	4.5%
• Suspended or expelled	66	N/A	20	15
• Enrolled in high school credit courses	38.6%	N/A	16.8%	13.2%
• Gifted and talented	15.4%	Up from 14.6%	15%	12.1%
• With disabilities other than speech	17%	Up from 10.2%	14.3%	13.6%



## PRINCIPAL'S / SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT

Alston Middle School, located in the heart of Summerville, serves 718 students with a staff of 58 certified teachers. Our mission is to provide every student with the skills necessary to become a productive citizen. In order to fulfill this mission, Alston Middle School features programs of academic excellence, fine arts, community service, and a variety of special opportunities for students, parents, and the community.

Our efforts to achieve academic excellence earned us the SCASA Middle School of Excellence Award in 1999 and 2001, Schools of Promise Flagship Status, the Exemplary Writing Award, and the U. S. Army Planning for Life Award. Advanced/honors classes and a strong Accelerated Reader Program that includes invitations for our top readers to the Governor's Reading Challenge, Governor's Read-In, and the A.R. auction highlight our rigorous academic program. This year, Alston teachers earned many E.I.A. grants, grants from Sisters of Charity, the Community Foundation, the SCIRA literature program, and a Newspaper in Education Grant. Recently, Alston students have won prestigious academic competitions such as Quest and the Lt. Governor's Writing Contests.

Alston students excel in the fine arts. Our band students are rated as superior by the SC Band Directors Assoc. To expand our arts program, we are initiating an after-school strings program in 2001-2002. Alston's chorus is consistently recognized as excellent, and our art students compete successfully in regional and state competitions such as the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition.

Community service is a vital component of Alston. Our students participate in activities that benefit groups like the Leukemia Foundation, St. Jude's, Palmetto House, SPCA, Habitat for Humanity and Muscular Dystrophy. Students also learn about life through character education, School-to-Work mentoring, and service learning projects.

Alston's PTSA and School Improvement Council give strong support to teachers, parents, students, and the community. The PTSA provides mini- grants to teachers, sponsors sports teams and dances, purchases library books, and supports the Reflections Program. S.I.C. leads in the area of community outreach, school safety, and academic rigor. Alston's clubs and activities enhance our students' lives and lead to life-long achievement. Alston looks forward to the challenge of taking student achievement to higher levels.

Sam Clark

### EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

Percent	Teachers	Students	Parents
Satisfied with learning environment	92.5	64.9	(Avail. 2002)
Satisfied with social and physical environment	94.3	73.7	
Satisfied with home-school relations	84.9	82.5	

### DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

**Excellent** – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Good** – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Average** – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Below Average** – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

**Unsatisfactory** – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Alston Middle  
500 Bryan Street  
Summerville, SC 29483

Grades 6-8 Middle School

Enrollment: 732 Students

#### Principal

Sam Clark 843-873-3890

#### Superintendent

Joseph R. Pye 843-873-2901

#### Board Chair

Bufort Blanton, Jr. 843-873-8454



## THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Annual School  
Report Card

2001

School Grade:  
Good



### South Carolina Performance Goal:

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

For more information, visit our website at  
[www.myschools.com](http://www.myschools.com)